

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

A free press is at the very heart of the concept of political freedom itself. It is no longer tolerable that Big Media should control major news reporting and public information, and thereby influence public opinion. This is propaganda. The rest of the civilized world is now better informed about America than we are at home. This must stop. Official public FCC hearings must take place in my state before you rewrite the ownership regulations!